

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group
FINAL: Minutes for May Meeting
5/11/05

Minutes by Dorothy Shoemaker

Present at meeting:

Neighborhood Associations:

Robin Plance	(b) (6)	St. Johns; Chair of CAG, Administrative committee coordinator
Peter Laughingwolf	(b) (6)	Cathedral Park

Environment:

Dorothy Shoemaker	dorothy.shoemaker@oregon.sierraclub.org	Sierra Club, Board Secretary
Joe Keating	(b) (6)	Oregon Wildlife Federation
	(b) (6)	Education and Outreach coordinator
Rhett Lawrence	rhett@ospirg.org 503-251-4181, x313	OSPIRG
Travis Williams	travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org	Willamette Riverkeeper

Health:

Jane Harris	jane@oregon-health.org	Oregon Center for Environmental Health (OCEH), Evaluation Committee coordinator
	(b) (6)	

Business:

Steve Gunther	(b) (6)	Progressive Products and Services
	(b) (6)	

Recreation:

Bill Egan	no email, (b) (6)	Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
Bill Barrett	(b) (6)	Waterfront Org. of Oregon (WOO)

At-Large:

Jim Robison	(b) (6)	Citizen
	(b) (6)	
Jackie Calder	(b) (6)	Citizen
	(b) (6)	
Tom Chisolm	(b) (6)	Citizen
	(b) (6)	

Absent:

Recreation:

At Large:

Bill McCauley	no email, (b) (6)	Citizen
---------------	-------------------	---------

Others present:

Barbara Smith	Barbara@harrisandsmith.com	Lower Willamette Group
	206-343-0250	(LWG)
Heidi Blischke		DEQ
Regina Skarzinskas	regina@TASLLC.com	Willamette-Riverkeeper
	503-641-0230	
Sue Safford	susan.safford@portofportland.com	Port of Portland
	503-944-7047	
Mikell O'Mealy	omealy.mikell@deq.state.or.us	DEQ
	503-229-6590	
Judy Smith	smith.judy@epa.gov	EPA
	503-326-6994	
Chip Humphrey	humphrey.chip@epa.gov	EPA
	503-326-2678	
Aron Borok	aron.borok@eiltld.net	EI/Tribes
	503-484-5711	
Julie Early	Julie.early@state.or.us	
	503-872-6804	
John Montgomery		E & E
Harley Meservey		Munitor Construction
Julie Sullivan		The Oregonian newspaper
Joan Rothlein		CROET – OHSU
Liz Waddle	waddle.liz@deq.state.or.us	DEQ
Kevin Parrett		DEQ

Meeting brought to order by Robin Plance, Chair of Portland Harbor CAG, at 6:05 PM. The CAG membership met in closed session for the first hour. No refreshments were provided, but Travis promised to bring pizza next month.

Announcements:

The Sierra Club has a page up about the Portland Harbor, which links to an article from the Columbia Overlook, a Sierra Club newsletter, which describes the issue. See the page at <http://oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/columbia/conserv/pdxharbor/index.asp>.

Robin Plance attended an all-day class for lawyers called Sediment 2005. While there, Robin talked to William Hengemihle from Pennsylvania, whose job at EPA is to negotiate with PRPs for early actions and signing AOCs.

Future CAG meetings will be at the BES Water Lab: 6543 North Burlington, under the St. John's Bridge.

MOTION: Accept January 2005, March 2005, and April 2005 minutes with minor corrections. Moved Bill Egan/Travis. All agreed.

Administrative Committee:

Robin thought fundraising for the CAG might be easier if we were a 501©(3) organization. Currently, we are under the financial umbrella of Willamette Riverkeeper, a 501©(3).

Jane and Joe thought we should know what we want to do with the money first. Joe thinks Travis has money which he won't spend. There was discussion about how hard it would be to become a 501©(3), also the alternative of incorporating as a nonprofit.

MOTION: Set up a kitty for the Portland Harbor CAG, and establish a goal of \$1500 in the kitty. Steve/Jane. Passed 8-5.

Education and Outreach:

Joe received another response to our PRP letter, for a total of 4 responses.

Steve was contacted by Koppers (sp?), a company. They called him because he is the only business representative on the CAG.

ACTION: Steve will email his correspondence with Koppers to the CAG membership.

Evaluation Committee:

Jane Harris hosted a meeting about ARKEMA, which Regina, our TAG consultant, was able to attend.

ARKEMA obtained an IRAM, or Interim Remedial Action Measure, which doesn't need as much environmental review. Chromium reduction is an in-situ (in place) technology. Arkema will inject a reducing agent into the groundwater to reduce hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium. The trivalent state is much less mobile and orders of magnitude less toxic. The IRAM will be followed by risk assessment.

Regina suggested several questions which might be productive with DEQ, including asking the potential of cyanide at the site, and asking about groundwater flow changes.

(Barbara Smith added to minutes: "There are no plans for a CDF on the ARKEMA site and cyanide is not a chemical of concern at the site.")

An IRAM is chosen by a company working with the DEQ.

The GASCO presentation, about the site now owned by NW Natural, will be next month.

The Port wants to build a CDF. The Port will make \$10 million by storing other PRP's waste sediment.

Jane and others want the Port to consider alternative technologies. The EPA has a program of Superfund demonstration projects using alternative technologies. Jane argued

with the EPA's assessment that there won't be enough sediment from the Harbor for a demo program.

Jane handed out the Duwamish CAG's agenda for a meeting about alternative technologies. Several methods are listed.

Steve Gunther wanted to know why Jane is willing to hold back the cleanup. Jane answered that she wants to see the sediment disposed of properly.

MOTION: The CAG encourages the EPA to consider utilizing alternative technologies to deal with waste instead of just disposing of it. Moved Jim/Jackie. All agreed.

At this point, it was 7 PM, and we let in the observers.

Presentation: Kevin Parrett discussed the McCormick & Baxter site
See the handout from this presentation.

1991 – McCormick & Baxter goes bankrupt
1994 – Superfund listing
1996 – ROD
1996-2006 - Remedial Design and Construction

The EPA gave the DEQ the lead on this site. The DEQ built an 80 foot barrier wall and put a sheet pile wall up in 2003.

Sand from the Columbia was put on the sediment. Then they covered it with rock and smaller gravel, as armor. Next came a woven sythetic, then mats cabled together. Cables are used to place the mats, but aren't designed to hold them together. Kevin had a sample of the mats with cables.

At first they were concerned with turbidity, and they put up a silt curtain. But turbidity did not turn out to be a problem. They also tried fish exclusion, but it didn't work.

Organoclay was used, with rocks around the edges of the mats. They removed a wooden barge. The mats were stapled with 80 12" staples.

In February, the DEQ plans to plant 9000 trees and shrubs. Contact Mikell O'Mealy if you're interested in planting. Slits will be cut in the mats for trees.

The DEQ and EPA spent over \$30 million on the McCormick & Baxter cleanup.

E & E is the company with an ongoing contract to provide construction oversight. John Montgomery from E & E talked about the engineering involved. The contractor proposes a plan to E & E, and then E & E oversees, observes, verifies quantities, checks if design specs are met, etc.

DEQ and E&E thought that Munitor, a contractor, wasn't doing enough quality control. So E&E did more oversight (quality assurance).

Joe asked Harley Meservey from Monitor, and John Montgomery from E &E, if deadlines made the contractors do sloppy work. John said no.

An E & E contractor walking the site found bubbling at an old creosote dock recently. They are watching the spot.

There are 1 1/2 acres left to cap at McCormick & Baxter.

Presentation: Heidi Blischke brought Drafts to review
Heidi works for DEQ. She brought copies of the Draft Final Barrier Wall Performance Monitoring Plan, and the Draft Final Monitoring and Maintenance Plan for the McCormick & Baxter site.

The sediment and soil caps will need a lot of maintenance. The DEQ is using EPA guidance at the site, the EPA Data Quality Objective Process.

EPA will pay for the intense monitoring necessary in the first year. After that, the State of Oregon will be responsible. There was concern about budgeting for this cost. Funding for this maintenance after the first year will be in the DEQ budget submitted to the Oregon Legislature.

Harley Meservey or Munitor, said they had a lot of contractors at the site because there was a short fish window, and the work had to be done then.

The general contractor at the McCormick & Baxter site is Remtek. There is an ongoing lawsuit between several subcontractors (including Munitor) and Remtek.

Judy Smith announced that the GASCO site (owned by NW Natural) EE/CA is out. There will be a public hearing at the St John's Community Center at 6 PM Thursday May 26th.

MOTION: Drop Raquel Coyote and Larry Talbert from membership, due to lack of attendance. Moved Dorothy/Rhett. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned by Robin Plance at 8:25 PM.